

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



September 1990

Vol. 3, No. 8

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.



1990
INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR



Workplace Literacy Forum at S.F.U.

Speakers representing a City of Vancouver workplace program, the Invergarry Learning Centre (Surrey), the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology will take part in a partnerships at work forum this month in Vancouver.

The forum, "Literacy Partnerships: Business, Labour and Government" is scheduled for October 4 at Simon Fraser University's Harbour Centre Campus, room 1400, 515 West Hastings Street, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The panel of speakers, who will address the topic of basic skills upgrading on the worksite, includes:

From the City of Vancouver

Ken Kaminski, Superintendent of Streets Operation,
Manitoba Works Yard

Fred Lee, Manager, Roddan Lodge

Norma-Jean McLaren, Program Officer, Equal
Employment Opportunity Office

Alphonse Marconato, employee, Streets Operation,
Manitoba Works Yard

From Invergarry Learning Centre

Linda Calahan, teaching aide

Gary Pharness, program consultant

Lee Weinstein, administrator

Cathy Lightfoot, an employment training counsellor, will represent MAETT, and Dave Long, President of CUPE, will represent the labour union.

The forum is sponsored by the ABE Association of B.C. For more information contact the organizers, Shirley Abrams (263-5922) or Florence Pieronek (732-9745).

Research Symposium at U.B.C.

A symposium on global research issues in literacy takes place at the University of B.C. Friday, October 5. Sponsored by the Secretary of State, the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, and the Department of Language Education, U.B.C., the symposium will feature faculty from B.C. colleges and universities presenting summaries of their research, followed by open question periods. Keynote speaker Dr. Alan Purves, an internationally-recognized literacy scholar from the State University of New York at Albany, will also chair a summary of issues and wrap-up discussion.

Morning topics are literacy development and adult literacy; afternoon topics include second language literacy and adult literacy policy. Lunch time discussion subjects are: school literacy; workplace literacy; technology and literacy; assessing written language; assessing reading; and literature and literacy.

Admission to the symposium (at the Graduate Student Centre Ballroom, U.B.C., 6371 Crescent Road, Vancouver) is free. To register in advance or for more information, contact:

Dr. Alister Cumming
Department of Language Education
2125 Main Mall
U.B.C.
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z5
Tel. 228-5788 or
228-5234

A Call For Action on the PLAC Report

A call for provincial government action on literacy funding was part of "A Celebration of Literacy," B.C.'s tribute to World Literacy Day at Vancouver's Trade and Convention Centre on September 8.

The call for action came in a joint statement from Patty Bossort, Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. President, and Lee Weinstein, Chair of Literacy B.C. "Two days ago the ABEABC received a letter from the Honourable Bruce Strachan stating that the province will not be making funds available for this fiscal year to implement the majority of recommendations in the Provincial Literacy Advisory Committee report," the statement said. "The recommendations that have been approved have either cost nothing or little, compared to funding a comprehensive strategy."

"It is not enough to make literacy classes tuition free in 1991," it continued. "This will have no significant impact without a larger strategy." The statement said more money must be committed to expand and diversify existing programs, and to support the idea of community partnerships, as recommended by the report.

"We strongly urge that the MAETT take immediate action to implement the PLAC report recommendations," the joint statement said. "Resources are needed now if the vision presented in this report is to become a reality."

The government-appointed Provincial Literacy Advisory Committee presented its final report to the Honourable Bruce Strachan, Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, in December, 1989.

"A Celebration of Literacy" — which was sponsored by the Canada Post Corporation, READ Canada (Frontier College), and ACTRA — also featured the presentation of Canada Post's commemorative postage stamp, acknowledgment of two of B.C.'s "Partners for Literacy," and a public marketplace of literacy materials.

Speakers at the public event included B.C. Lieutenant-Governor David Lam, provincial Education Minister Tony Brummet, Vancouver Mayor Gordon Campbell, and federal Justice Minister Kim Campbell (representing Multicultural and Citizenship Minister Gerry Weiner). Master of ceremonies was BCTV news anchor Doriana Temolo and host for the event was local actor Sophie Barjac.

Movement for Canadian Literacy AGM



The Movement for Canadian Literacy will hold its annual general meeting October 18 at the Chateau Granville (1100 Granville Street) in Vancouver at 7 p.m. Observers are welcome to attend.

The MCL is Canada's national literacy lobbying and advocacy network on behalf of adults learning to read and write. Its goals are to:

- raise public awareness about adult literacy issues
- advocate government action and support for literacy education
- consult and cooperate with local, regional and national organizations
- link individuals with organizations to promote literacy education

For more information phone Joyce Cameron or Mardi Joyce at 527-5416 (Douglas College).

I.R.A. Conference - Proposals Deadline Extended

The International Reading Association has extended the deadline for receipt of proposals for its Second North American Conference on adult and adolescent literacy in Banff in March, 1991.

Proposals for symposia, panels, workshops and sessions must now be postmarked no later than October 22, 1990. No proposals have been submitted from B.C. to date.

The conference theme is "Launching the Literacy Decade: Awareness into Action." Proposals should fit one of the following categories:

- technology and literacy
- at-risk adolescents
- workforce literacy
- aboriginal literacy
- instructional strategies
- adult basic education
- innovative projects
- management, funding and policy considerations
- multicultural literacy/ESL education
- special needs students
- correctional education
- intergenerational literacy
- learner perspectives
- networking
- school/community connections
- update on research
- special topics (gender/social issues, program evaluation, instructor accreditation, learner assessment, etc)
- author presentations (learners/professional writers)

A discussion on future planning for the next decade is scheduled for the last day of the conference, which runs from March 21-23 at the Banff Springs Hotel.

Complete proposal forms are available from the Contact Centre.

Linking Libraries with Literacy

The B.C. Library Association's "Library-Literacy Link" project has been launched. The project, in recognition of International Literacy Year, is funded by a \$150,000 joint grant from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture, Library Services Branch; the Department of Secretary of State of Canada; and the provincial literacy Public Awareness Campaign.

It consists of a core literacy collection of more than 100 books, tapes and videos, information for literacy tutors, library staff training materials and the BCLA video and public service announcement, "Libraries and Literacy." The 7 1/2 minute video (VHS or 3/4") followed by a 30-second PSA, promotes library services to the adult learner or non-reader and presents libraries as friendly, accessible and useful to the general public. The video is available to community groups, literacy and ESL classes, local television stations and regional libraries for events and training sessions.

83 core collections have been sent out to library systems throughout the province, including municipal, regional and library associations, according to Sheila Wallace of the BCLA. The sets are distributed to individual branches within each library system.

As part of the Literacy-Link project, the B.C.L.A. is conducting a series of training workshops for library staff in cooperation with local and regional libraries and associations.

Contact Ene Haabniit (596-7401 Surrey Public Library) for dates and locations.

Copies of the BCLA video (VHS - \$25.00, 3/4" U-Matic - \$45.00) are available from:

B.C. Library Association
#110 - 6545 Bonsor Avenue
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1H3
Phone: 430-9633
Fax: 430-8595

Literacy Ceremony at Vancouver Public Library

A Vancouver Community College basic education student joined federal, provincial and civic government and library representatives in a noon ceremony at the Vancouver Public Library on Friday, September 7 to mark World Literacy Week.

The event, co-sponsored by the B.C. Library Association and the VPL, was also the occasion for the launch of the B.C.L.A.'s Library-Literacy Link project at the VPL and regional libraries throughout the province.

Vancouver Mayor Gordon Campbell introduced Barb Angus, a learner tutored by Sally Gellard at Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House and V.C.C., King Edward Campus, who read an account of her "path to literacy" from a grade 4-5 reading level to high school equivalency. The reading was followed by the introduction of Wendy Carter, Regional Director, B.C. and Yukon Region, Secretary of State, and Barbara Greeniaus, Director, Library Services Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture by VPL board chairman Kyle Mitchell. Greeniaus said the Library Services Branch was "very impressed" with the BCLA project and described it as "a critical link in the support network" of literacy services throughout the province.

ABE Provincial Update Available

The 5th edition of the Provincial Update on ABE Education (September, 1990) has been published by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. The 44-page document is an annual summary of the work of the Adult Basic Education Steering Committee and its subsidiary working committees. It contains all the revisions to generic course outlines and the course equivalency charts, as well as any overall changes in policy or regulations. Copies of the booklet are available free of charge from the Contact Centre.

Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

622 - 510 W. Hastings St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.
684-0624 Lower Mainland
684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.

B.C. Literacy Study Underway

Two B.C. researchers are seeking input from the provincial literacy community for a study on "issues in adult literacy programming" funded by the National Literacy Secretariat.

The project, called Excellence in Practice: Case Studies on Adult Literacy in Canada, is to be completed by December 1990 by Dr. Richard Darville, research associate at the Centre for Policy Studies in Education, University of B.C., and Tom Walker.

Some of the issues identified to date are: tutor training; use of theatre in literacy programs; securing autonomy for workplace programs; student participation in program planning; student publishing; native and women's programs; and involvement of boards in programming.

Darville and Walker will travel throughout B.C. and conduct interviews with program coordinators, teachers and students, depending on the issue involved. "The feedback we get will influence to some extent the issues we study and who we will be talking to," says Darville. Publication of the study is expected some time next year. For more information and to offer suggestions, contact Richard Darville at 228-2411 (Vancouver).

"One Voice" Conference Report

A Canadian seniors' group has issued the final report and recommendations from its national conference uniting representatives from seniors' organizations, literacy educators and government held in Ottawa last April.

"Learning - That's Life" is the report on the National Conference on

Literacy and Older Canadians conducted by One Voice, the Canadian Seniors Network. The conference brought together literacy workers, professionals working with older people, and representatives of the major seniors' groups in the country. Some of the recommendations that resulted from conference sessions are that the network:

- work with literacy organizations to investigate ways to meet the needs of older learners
- improve support systems for non-literate seniors
- review the literature on literacy and older adult francophones

One Voice has also established a task force to design a National Literacy Strategy for Older Canadians, scheduled for release in October. This strategy is supported by the National Literacy Secretariat and coalitions concerned with literacy and older adults.

Additional information and copies of One Voice publications on literacy and older adults can be obtained from:

One Voice
The Canadian Seniors Network
901-350 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 7S8

Douglas College Literacy Program Honoured

The I-CARE (Individualized Community Adult Reading Education) program at Douglas College received a plaque in September to mark its selection last May as winner of a literacy award from the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

I-CARE won the national award in the "Literacy Program/Service Excellence" category of the ACCC 1990 Awards Program. The award

recognizes a literacy program or service developed by a college or technical institute "which has had a significant impact within the institution and/or the community." I-CARE Coordinator Carol Leyland and A.B.E. instructor Joyce Cameron accepted the award at the A.C.C.C. conference in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Public Input Sought in Fraser Valley

A Fraser Valley consultation group has invited public response to the recommendations of a provincial government report concerned with access to post-secondary education in the Fraser Valley. The report, "Findings of the Fraser Valley Access Committee," was released by Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology Minister Bruce Strachan in June, 1990. The consulting group is holding public input meetings until October 11 in 12 Fraser Valley communities. For more information contact Paula Pick at 432-8360.

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre provides information and encouragement by phone to adults who want to upgrade their skills through adult basic education. Our toll-free number for learners outside the Lower Mainland is:

1-800-663-1293

LITERACY B.C. UPDATE**PROJECT LITERACY
ABBOTSFORD-MATSQUI**

Contact: Cynthia Andruske
Wendy Watson
Fraser Valley College
33844 King Road
Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 4N2
Phone: 853-7441

"Marks on Paper," the learners' play developed and performed by PLAM's Literacy Players as a fundraising vehicle, will be featured at the Literacy 2000 Conference at Douglas College on October 19. (The troupe also performed September 8 at Canada Place and will perform at the Surrey Public Library on December 7.) Funds raised support the workplace project at Abbotsford's MSA Hospital, a project initiated by PLAM and developed in partnership with the hospital, the Hospital Employees Union and Fraser Valley College. To date, PLAM has donated \$2000 to the project, scheduled to begin in January, 1991.

**COMOX VALLEY LITERACY
PROJECT GROUP**

Contact: David Driedger
Vancouver Island Regional Library
Courtenay Branch
410 Cliffe Avenue,
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 2J2
Phone: 334-3369 or:
Maggie Richardson
ABE Coordinator
North Island College
156 Manor Drive
Comox, B.C. V9N 6P7
Phone: 339-8910

**FORT ST. JOHN LITERACY
SOCIETY**

Contact: Romi Haseo
Fort St. John Public Library
10349 - 100th Street
Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 3Z2
Phone: 785-3731

The library has received its core collection from the B.C.L.A.'s "Library-Literacy Link" project, reports Romi Haseo, and has advertised the availability of these new materials on local radio. Haseo attended the one-day Library-Literacy Link workshop at the Chetwynd Public Library on September 19. The group meets on the fourth Monday of the month (next meeting October 22) and is interested in attracting employers, as well as volunteer tutors and new learners. The group has applied for charitable organization status and plans to approach local employers for funding sources.

**FRASER VALLEY EAST
LITERACY ASSOCIATION**

Contact: Gail Newby
45405 Stevenson Road
Sardis, B.C. V2R 1M2
Phone: 858-4913

**PROJECT LITERACY
GREATER VANCOUVER**

Contact: Hendrik Hoekema
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6
Phone: 291-3298

PROJECT LITERACY HOUSTON

Contact: Sandi Lavallie
c/o Northwest Community College
P.O. Box 1277
Houston, B.C. V0J 1Z0
Phone: 875-7266

PROJECT LITERACY KELOWNA

Contact: Maxine Veach
(Coordinator)
Betty Knox (President)
P.O. Box 1886, Station A
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 8P2
Phone: 762-2163

LITERACY KITIMAT

Contact: Janette Camazzola
c/o Kitimat Community Services
Society
#201 - 370 City Centre
Kitimat, B.C. V8C 1T6
Phone: 632-3139

Two tutors, two students, a tutoring instructor and Janette Camazzola presented a brief to Advanced Education, Training and Technology Minister Bruce Strachan and his cabinet members when they visited Kitimat on September 26. The group is scheduled to meet next on October 1.

LITERACY B.C. UPDATE

LITERACY NANAIMO

Contact: Carolyn McWhinnie
#314 - 350 Terminal Avenue
Nanaimo, B.C. V9S 4J7
Phone: 754-1704

Literacy Nanaimo volunteers collected approximately 15,000 hardcover and paperback books for the Great Nanaimo Book Sale on September 29. The sale was a fundraiser for the group's planned downtown learning centre. There will be a general meeting on October 2 at 436 Selby Street, Nanaimo, at 7:30 p.m.

PROJECT LITERACY PARKSVILLE/QUALICUM

Contact: Linda Perkins
The Write Place
192A Morison Avenue
Parksville, B.C. V0R 2S0
(Mailing address: General Delivery
Parksville, B.C. V0R 2S0)
Phone: 248-4041 or 248-4042

The group has received its cost-shared grant for 1990-91 and "will immediately implement plans to interest local employers in workplace literacy programs," reports Liz Campbell of The Write Place. Its other major activity is the provision of "front-end scribe services" (help with tasks such as letter-writing, forms, resumes and banking) and a literacy tutoring program for the community. Tutoring sessions begin October 27 and run for 6 Saturdays. To celebrate World Literacy Day, The Write Place held a "drop-in short story and essay-writing contest" on the premises, judged by two local community newspaper employees, a teacher, and a local writer; winners received dictionaries as prizes.

PROJECT LITERACY PRINCE GEORGE

Contact: Murry Krause
Coordinator, United Way
Box 494,
Prince George, B.C. V2L 4S6
Phone: 561-1040 Fax: 562-8102

PLPG has been invited to attend an information meeting on October 9 hosted by Northwood Pulp and Timber, reports Murry Krause. The company is investigating which workplace literacy programs are available to industry, and has invited local groups to the meeting to explain the programs that are being considered.

PROJECT LITERACY PRINCE RUPERT

Contact: Sheila Lid
1920 Adin Avenue
Prince Rupert, B.C. V8J 1E8
Phone: 624-6698 or 627-7178

LITERACY SMITHERS

Contact: Levica Markides
Smithers Community Services
Association
Box 2684, Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0
Phone: 847-9553

More than 1000 books collected during a two day blitz throughout the community were sold on September 8 to raise funds for this newly-formed group's promotion committee, reports Levica Markides of the Smithers Volunteer Bureau. Plans for a volunteer tutor training program are underway, with nine persons registered. The 18-hour training sessions were held September 21-19, and more volunteers are welcome.

PROJECT LITERACY SUNSHINE COAST

Contact: Mary Pinnigar
c/o Continuing Education, SD #46
P.O. Box 888
Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0
Phone: 885-2991

PROJECT LITERACY SURREY/DELTA

Contact: Bev Yaworsky
Surrey Public Library (591-4312) or:
Ene Haabniit
Newton Public Library (596-7401)

PL Surrey/Delta celebrated September 8 with a literacy awareness campaign and exhibits in the Surrey Place Mall. Seven area organizations participated, including the Invergarry Learning Centre, the Surrey Association for Learning Disabled Adults, Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society, Delta Adult Basic Education, Surrey Public Library, Fraser Valley Regional Library, and Kwantlen College. Representatives of each group were on hand to meet the public, answer questions and sign up learners and tutors.

PROJECT LITERACY TERRACE

Contact: Jake Muller
Northwest Community College
P.O. Box 726
Terrace, B.C. V8G 4C2
Phone: 635-6511, local 255
Fax: 635-3511

LITERACY B.C. UPDATE

PROJECT LITERACY VICTORIA

Contact: Donna Oswald-Miller
c/o Sooke School District
Continuing Education
3143 Jacklin Road
Victoria, B.C. V9B 5R1
Phone: 478-5800
Contact: The Learners' Network
760-A Hillside Avenue
Victoria, B.C. V8T 1Z4
Phone: 381-3755

PL Victoria held an informal open house for tutors and learners at the end of September to celebrate its move to new premises, and plan an official opening (date to be announced) in October. The Saanich School District has become a member of PL Victoria.

LITERACY B.C. WEST KOOTENAYS

Contact: Judy Wearmouth
Castlegar Public Library
1005 - 3rd Street
Castlegar, B.C. V1N 2A2
Phone: 365-7765

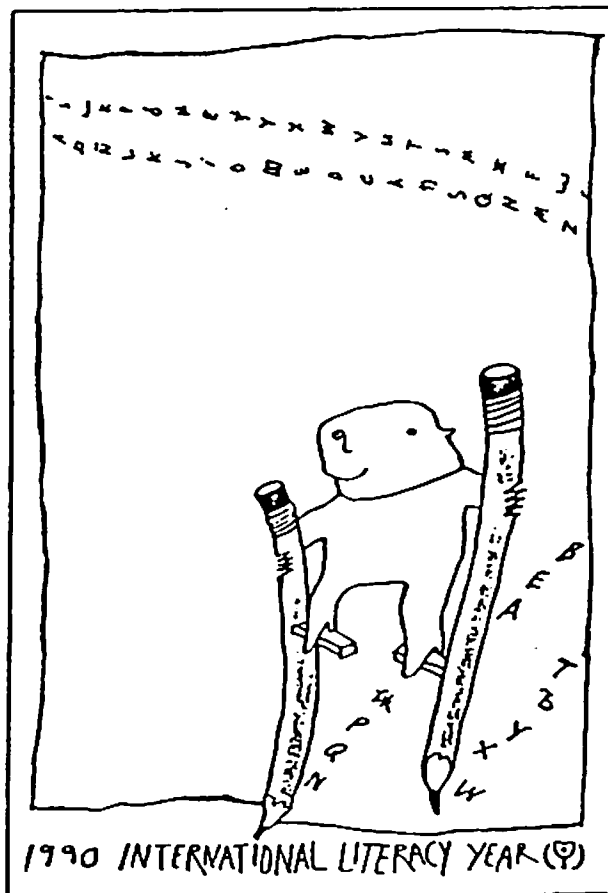
PROJECT LITERACY WILLIAMS LAKE

Contact: Debby DeMare
P.O. Box 4596
Williams Lake, B.C. V2G 2V6
Phone: 398-8400

The groups' tutor training program resumed in late September, in cooperation with Cariboo College, and will run for seven weeks through to late November. 23 volunteers have signed up, and more are welcome.

The World Literacy Day fundraiser at the local mall surpassed everyone's expectations, reports DeMare. L.I.F.F.E. (Literacy is Freedom for

Everyone), the recently formed learners' group in Williams Lake, raised \$700.00 for its programs at the event.



ILY T-shirts and Sweatshirts for Sale

International Literacy Year T-shirts and sweatshirts, with the UNESCO/ILY poster design (in red and black on white) are now available from:

National Adult Literacy Database
Fanshawe College
P.O. Box 4005
London, Ontario N5W 5H1
Tel: (519) 659-3125 Fax: (519) 451-8831

T-shirts \$9.50 each; sweatshirts \$17.00 each.

Message from the Contact Centre

This fall the message, "Learn to Read...Help Others to Read...Yes I Can!" has been seen in prime public locations due to generous donations from B.C. businesses.

The publishers' distributor Great Pacific News has displayed during September a 4' x 6' version of the poster with this message on all 35 of its delivery trucks, which cover territory from Horseshoe Bay to Hope. The same large version of the poster is also currently on display in ten transit locations in the Lower Mainland, thanks to Seaboard Advertising Company. (Two are in the Lougheed Mall, one in the Pacific Centre Parkade, and seven in Skytrain stations located in east Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster.) Assistance for this poster campaign has also been generously provided by Transcom Advertising Incorporated.

The full-colour poster, which was developed as part of the provincial literacy Public Awareness Campaign, is also available in a standard 16 1/4" x 22" format and may be ordered free of charge from the Contact Centre.

Learn to Read

YES I CAN!

**Help
Others to Read**

ADULT LITERACY CONTACT CENTRE
for help and information:
1-800-663-1293
or (lower mainland)
684-0624